

Designated Action

Subject: Gravel Restoration

Background: Dams have interrupted the natural alluvial sediment transport processes and therefore negatively impacted both river channel morphology and the aquatic habitat available to native species. In some cases, rivers have responded to this lack of sustainable coarse-sediment supply with channel incision and bed-surface coarsening. In other cases, lack of channel forming flows have allowed increased amount of fine materials to be deposited. Both actions reduce the quantity and quality of spawning habitat available to native anadromous fish species and reduces food chain (e.g., benthic macroinvertebrate) production.

In addition, sediment transport continuity has been interrupted in some areas due to the impacts of instream and floodplain aggregate and gold mining. Past mining activities have left large instream and floodplain pits which act as sediment traps during gravel transport events. Gravels slowly accumulate in the pits, and because these gravels are not transported through these reaches, the bed surface downstream coarsens and/or incises.

Proposed Action: Identify opportunities to cost share on projects to replace gravel in areas where natural sediment deposition process have been interrupted and aquatic habitats have degraded. Focus on cost-sharing with CVPIA.

Geographic Area: Throughout the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta system.

Recommended Funding: Up to \$500,000.

Coordination: Currently, the state and federal governments are developing task orders regarding the state's cost share requirement on gravel replacement projects on CVP streams. Category III funds could cost share on both CVP and non-CVP streams and need to be coordinated with funding for the state's CVPIA cost share.

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